Panna Mukta and Tapti oilfields

1454. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the latest position for the full control of the Panna Mukta oil and Tapti Gas fields by ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): The Production Sharing Contract for Panna Mukta and Tapti fields was signed on 22.12.1994 with Government of India in which Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has 40% participating interest and 30% each as held by Reliance Industries Ltd. and British Gas Exploration & Production (India) Ltd. (BGEPIL). The field is being operated by BGEPIL as an interim arrangement till the issue of operatorship is resolved.

Imposition of motor vehicle tax

1455. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert committeee under the Chairmanship of the Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has recommended the levy of an additional motor vehicle tax on all old vehicles;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the proposed tax will be levied by the Central Government or the State Government;

(d) whether the view points of the State Government have been obtained, in case it is levied by the State Governments, on the desirability and feasibility of the proposed levy; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (e) Teh Expert Committee on Auto Fuel Policy under the chairmanship of Director General of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research has made the following recommendation:—

"In other countries, emission charges are a key instrument for controlling pollution. Such economic instruments should be considered